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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,643	07/07/2003	Tamra L. Thomason	200209506-1	1208
22879 HEWLETT PA	7590 02/26/2008 CKARD COMPANY	EXAMINER		
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			QIN, YIXING	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
TORT CODE			2625	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			02/26/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)			
	10/615,643	THOMASON, TAMRA L.			
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit			
	Yixing Qin	2625			
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 16(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tin 11 apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from 12 cause the application to become ABANDONE	N. nely filed the mailing date of this communication. D (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status					
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 No	action is non-final. ace except for formal matters, pro				
Disposition of Claims		•			
4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7 and 20-24 is/are pending in the ap 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdraw 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7 and 20-24 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or	vn from consideration.				
Application Papers					
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) access applicant may not request that any objection to the of Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction of the oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner	epted or b) objected to by the I drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See on is required if the drawing(s) is obj	e 37 CFR 1.85(a). jected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119	,				
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.					
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:	ate			

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/30/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments state that the combination of Nomura and Sugiyama does not disclose/suggest the newly amended features of "suggesting an alternative unrestricted characteristic for printing data associated with the received user request if the received user request is determined to be Included in the set of one or more restricted user requests."

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Nomura discloses in Fig. 5 and P[0072 – 0077] that various print jobs with various characteristics are printable all day long or only during certain periods of the day. Thus, there is suggestion that a possible restricted job during nighttime would be able to be printed during the day or "normal" business hours. See that for example, Data 2 is printable during 600-2100, but not available at night from 2100-600. Even though Data 2 might be work appropriate, it is still restricted at night, so really a suggestion is made to print it during the day. From this example, the user trying to print data2 during the night hours would still get an appropriate error message such as that of Fig. 9, but this job would be regularly processed during the day. Thus, it would have been obvious to at least suggest that a job not possible during certain times of the day be printed during "normal" works hours.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- I. Claims 1-7, 20-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura (U.S. PG Pub. No. 2002/0059318) in view of Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,449).

Regarding claims 1 and 22, Nomura discloses a method of restricting execution of user requests for printing data, comprising:

defining a set of one or more restricted user requests, such restricted user requests being restricted according to characteristics associated with such restricted user requests; (Fig. 3)

receiving a user request having a characteristic; (Fig. 10)

determining whether the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests based on the characteristic of the received user request; (P[0018] and Fig. 10) and

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Nomura does not explicitly disclose "receiving an authorization indicator before printing data associated with the received user request having the characteristic when the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests."

However, in Figs. 7-9, Nomura shows that various messages can be indicated, just got an authorization message. The secondary reference, Sugiyama discloses in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3, a typical authorization indicator that shows a login/password screen.

Nomura and Sugiyama are combinable because both are in the art of printing information.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a password authentication system.

The motivation would have been to allow an user to identify him/herself to gain access to print restricted data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Nomura and Sugiyama to obtain the invention as specified.

Nomura further suggests "suggesting an alternative unrestricted characteristic for printing data associated with the received user request if the received user request is determined to be Included in the set of one or more restricted user requests." (Fig. 5 and P[0072 – 0077] discloses that various print jobs with various characteristics are printable all day long or only during certain periods of the day. Thus, there is suggestion that a possible restricted job during nighttime would be able to be printed

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during the day or "normal" business hours. See that for example, Data 2 is printable during 600-2100, but not available at night from 2100-600. Even though Data 2 might be work appropriate, it is still restricted at night, so really a suggestion is made to print it during the day.)

Regarding claim 2, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the characteristic of the received user request relates to a selected printing mode for printing the data, the selected printing mode specifying at least one of printing colorant, printing resolution, printing speed, print media source, type of print media, output sorting, output binding, and surface coating disposed on output. (Fig. 3)

Regarding claim 3, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the received user request defines an aspect of a print job, and wherein printing data includes sending the print job to a printing device. (Fig. 2)

Regarding claim 4, Nomura discloses the method of claim 3, wherein the user request is received from a person; and wherein defining includes receiving input specifying the set of one or more restricted user requests from an administrator of the printing device, the administrator being different than the person. (P[0079])

Regarding claim 5, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the characteristic is a numerical characteristic, and wherein at least one of the one or more

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restricted user requests defines a threshold value for the numerical characteristic, determining being based on a comparison of the numerical characteristic and the threshold value. (Fig. 3, Fig. 10)

Regarding claims 6 and 24, Nomura discloses the method of claim 5, wherein the numerical characteristic relates to printed output produced by executing the received user request, and wherein the numerical characteristic is at least one of size of printed output, amount of print media included in the printed output, amount of colorant consumed to produce the printed output, duration of printing to produce the printed output, and amount of power consumed in producing the printed output. (Fig. 3, Fig. 10 – shows color data)

Regarding claim 7, Nomura discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the authorization indicator is at least one of a password, a code, a string of characters, and a private key, and wherein receiving the authorization indicator includes requesting the authorization indicator after receiving the user request when the received user request is included in the set of one or more restricted user requests. (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen.)

Regarding claim 23, Nomura discloses the method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the one or more restricted user requests defines a threshold value for the numerical characteristic, and wherein determining is based on a comparison of the

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numerical characteristic of the received user request to the threshold value. (Fig. 10 and P[0018])

Regarding claim 20, Nomura discloses a system for controlling execution of user requests for printing data, comprising:

a printing device configured to print data associated with user requests; (Fig. 2) and

a controller coupled with the printing device (Fig. 2, item 7) and including a set of restricted user requests according to characteristics associated with such restricted user requests (Fig. 10), the controller having a received user request that has a characteristic, the controller being configured to determine if the received user request is included in the set of restricted user requests based on the characteristic of such received user request, (P[0018] and Fig. 10) and also configured to receive an authorization indicator before allowing the printing device to print data associated with the received user request when the received user request is included in the set of restricted user requests, (Again, the secondary reference, Sugiyama, shows in column 3, lines 30-43 and Fig. 3 a typical login screen) and

Nomura further suggests "to suggest an alternative unrestricted characteristic for printing data associated with the received user request if the received user request is determined to be Included in the set of one or more restricted user requests." (Fig. 5 and P[0072 – 0077] discloses that various print jobs with various characteristics are printable all day long or only during certain periods of the day. Thus, there is

suggestion that a possible restricted job during nighttime would be able to be printed during the day or "normal" business hours. See that for example, Data 2 is printable

during 600-2100, but not available at night from 2100-600. Even though Data 2 might

be work appropriate, it is still restricted at night, so really a suggestion is made to print it

during the day.)

Regarding claim 21, Nomura discloses the system of claim 20, the controller being included in a separate device that is connected to the printing device. P([0096])

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER